

clarifying the responsibility to look specifically to a block grant approach or alternative approach to the funding mechanism other than excess cost reimbursement.

SENATOR STUHR: Okay. All right, that answers that question to some extent. I also, right now the schools are providing these for special need students. If the schools do not provide, who is going to provide for the needs of the students...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR STUHR: ...if we reduce the numbers? Who is going to...who is going to be in charge or take care or to see to their needs?

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Senator Stuhr, nothing in the amendment attempts to exempt the state from their responsibility for providing free education to special education children or to any other child in the state. That responsibility still lies with the school and with the state. However, it allows that a district may provide services without having to go through the verification process, without having to do \$2,500 worth of testing and screening and IEPs in order to say this child has a speech and language problem, what can we do to meet that child's need without having to verify. That's one of the really critical (interruption)...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: ...in what we're hoping to provide.

SENATOR STUHR: Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I heard the comment a little while ago that 90 percent is reimbursed right at the present time on special ed. It's a little misleading. If you talk to some of your schools, you're going to find out that it's closer to 80 percent rather than 90 percent. Another part of the bill I would like to address, Senator Dierks has addressed it, but I would like to speak on it a little also. That 15 members on the Accountability Commission, I feel, is adequate. Any more than that and you're going to run into bigger problems. But the mix, I think, should